

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. PALACE HOTEL San Francisco, Monday 1876. My dear Alec:

You poor thing how dreadfully lonely you must feel now Mamma has gone away. It is just lovely of you not to make any fuss about it or to say anything you think might trouble me. You are a dear good Alec and I wish I could give you a hug. It seems such a long time since I said goodbye to you, and I am in a hurry to come to the "How do you do." Well a few days more and every step takes me nearer to you. The days will pass very quickly and it will not seem long before we are together once more. You have no idea how fond I am of Mr. Kraft — because he brings me all your letters. I have had another from you this morning you perceive. It told me of the success of your experiments on your new wire. How nice it was for Mamma to speak to you so. Take care take care, Alec there's such a thing as being jealous of one's own sweet mother.

I don't feel inclined to write a nice letter at all. Getting up at primitive hours mornings and sitting up late, and sightseeing or doing the agreeable between, don't seem to agree with me. I hope you got my Saturday letter all right, Uncle Sam came fussing in, and drove us off in a tearing hurry, and I gave Mr. Kraft my letter to fold and send just as it was. O dear I am getting into excellent training to endure smoking. Uncle Sam does smoke so, all over the rooms and right in our presence without asking our permission, yesterday he made me cough and then he asked if I disliked his cigar, and of course I began with the coldest of denials and he went right on smoking and spoiling our drive. It was such a lovely drive. Enclosed please find some bay leaves picked from the hillside then. The bush grows wild all over, the grass looks so fresh and green roses and calla lillies are blooming utterly unsheltered. Yet the gentlemen are wrapped in ulsters and the ladies in sealskin! But I am

## Library of Congress

beginning in the middle. Uncle Sam took us down the beautiful bay nine miles and then on by narrow gauge through the hill, valley and to San Rafael. We found the whole family on the hotel verandah except Sam who dashed past our room a little later, not yet in evening dress. Little Charlie is such a bright boy and quite a distinguished athletic, he stood on his head on the sofa and Sam put him on his knee and he rolled over and over around it. Mary has a bad cold and did not go to school this morning. A sore throat also kept Sam at home, Willie seems quiet and rather delicate, Aunt Sophie very well. Sunday the whole family started on a long ride, Sister and May driven by Willie, Aunt Sophie, Papa, Charlie and I in a phaeton with Uncle Sam and Sam cantered along on horseback. We went to Mrs. Milliard's and enjoyed a long call there returning to dinner. Today we have done some gazing into Chinese stores, and in the afternoon Mr. Gracy took Sister for a drive to the Cliff house, the rest of us followed later. Ask katie to tell you about the sea-lions. I never saw anything so queer as those great lubberly things. There were hundreds of them lying on the rocks wherever they could find a footing. The drive was lovely. San Francisco I don't fancy. It has some fine buildings, but they look smoky, and the dwelling houses being of wood look flimsy. But the situation surpasses everything. We are going to the joss-houses and Chinese theatres some evening with a detective.

Please tell Carrie (Hubbard) Mr. Tracy appeared at lunch and 3 dined with us today. Mr. Fox threatened to leave the house tomorrow if the waiters didn't give us a table to ourselves, the tables are all too small for us all, so they had to put two together. Did you ever hear anything so ridiculous. My little thing hangs by my side. It's a perfect beauty and I grow fonder of it every day.

Goodnight — with a heart full of love, Ever your, Mabel. By the way do you wrap up and keep warm, you mustn't take colds or have headaches while I am away. Please tell me how you are. I am quite well thank you. The letter of Sunday has just this moment arrived. I congratulate you with all my heart on your success. You have worked very very hard and I am so glad you are successful. Is the enclosed a proper thing to send you? Well I don't care anyway, you are a victor, though not over the bodies of men. Pray don't say anything

## Library of Congress

about it I'm rather ashamed of the bit of sentiment. Adelheit's name is not Adelaide, poor thing, I am sorry for her.